

4. On an apparently undescribed Sun-Bird from Tropical South-Western Africa. By ROLAND TRIMEN, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c., Curator of the South-African Museum, Cape Town.

[Received May 10, 1882.]

(Plate XXXII.)

Mr. Axel W. Eriksson, well known as in former years the companion of the late Charles John Andersson, and as an explorer of Damara-land and the adjacent regions, has recently extended his travels to the Cunene river and to the Portuguese Province of Mossamedes. Ill-health and the disturbed condition of parts of the country which he traversed much interfered with his collecting efforts; but he succeeded in procuring a good many bird-skins, and, on a late flying visit to Cape Town, with his wonted liberality presented a set of them to the South-African Museum.

In Damara-land he secured several examples of the rare *Chatops pycnopygius* (Sclat.); but most of his specimens were obtained from Biballa and Shella in Mossamedes. These included *Caprimulgus fossii*, Verr., *Corythaix livingstonii*, G. R. Gray, *Chlorocichla occidentalis*, Sharpe, *Phyllostrephus fulviventris*, Cab., and other species of interest; and among them was a *Cinnyris* which appears to be new, and which I propose to name in honour of its discoverer, who has for so many years rendered good service to African ornithology.

CINNYRIS ERIKSSONI, sp. nov. (Plate XXXII.)

♂. Head, throat, entire back, and least and middle upper wing-coverts bright metallic green, with blue-green and bronze reflections; upper tail-coverts metallic blue; greater upper wing-coverts and quill-feathers dusky brown, edged narrowly with pale brown; tail darker, glossy above, except the outermost feather on each side, which is pale dull brown with a whitish external narrow edging. On the upper breast a narrow metallic-blue collar separates the metallic green of the throat from a very broad belt of scarlet reaching to the abdomen; pectoral tufts bright sulphur-yellow; lower abdominal region, thighs, and under tail-coverts pale cinereous. A black spot immediately before the eye. Bill and legs black; irides not noted. Total length 4 in. 8 lin.; length of culmen 8 lin., of folded wing 2 in. 6 lin., of tail 2 in., of tarsus $7\frac{1}{2}$ lin. (Three examples.)

♀. All the upper surface cinereous brown, with a faint olivaceous tinge, which becomes more apparent on upper tail-coverts; quill-feathers and greater upper coverts of wings dark brown, edged with pale brownish; tail darker, as in ♂. Under surface very pale cinereous, indistinctly varied throughout with traces of pale yellowish, more apparent on lower breast and abdomen; pectoral tufts whitish yellow; under wing-coverts and inner margins of quill-feathers whitish. Total length 4 in. 6 lin.; length of culmen $7\frac{1}{2}$ lin., of

folded wing 2 in. $3\frac{1}{2}$ lin., of tail 1 in. 8 lin., of tarsus 7 lin. (One example.)

This Sun-bird belongs to Shelley's "pale metallic group" of the genus *Cinnyris*, and is in colouring almost identical with *C. afer* (L.), but differs strikingly in size, being not larger than *C. chalybeus* (L.), and in the shortness of its beak. In the male the metallic green is perhaps rather more smooth and brilliant than in *C. afer*, and the scarlet of the breast somewhat lighter; but it is in the *width* of the latter that the bird differs most, the specimen in finest plumage having the belt an inch broad, which is actually wider than the same marking in the much larger *C. afer*. It is further remarkable that the wings are as long as in *C. afer*, viz. 2 in. 6 lin., while in *C. chalybeus* they measure only 2 in. 3 lin. The bill, however, is 1 line shorter than in *C. chalybeus* (culmen 9 lin.), and 5 lines shorter than in *C. afer* ($12\frac{1}{2}$ to 13 lin.).

C. erikssoni cannot be confounded with *C. chalybeus*, the latter having such a very narrow scarlet breast-belt; but it is more like *C. chloropygius*, Jard., a native of all the tropical West-African coast from Senegal to Angola. This last-named bird, however, is much smaller (total length 3 in. 7 lin.), and wants both the blue upper tail-coverts and blue pectoral collar presented by *C. erikssoni*.

Hab. Shella, Province of Mossamedes (*A. W. Eriksson*, 1882).

This handsome species was found by Mr. Eriksson to be not uncommon in the wooded ravines of the mountain-range called Shella ("Serra de Chella" of Keith Johnston's Library Map of Africa), rather over a hundred miles inland from the port of Mossamedes at Little Fish Bay. He describes its habits to be precisely those of *C. chalybeus* and *C. afer*, both of which he had observed some years ago at Knysna in the Cape colony, but which neither he nor the late Mr. Andersson ever met with to the north of the Orange River. Since seeing Mr. Eriksson's bird here described, it has occurred to me that the specimen of *C. afer* stated by Capt. Shelley and Mr. Sharpe to be recorded by Prof. Barboza du Bocage from Biballa may possibly prove to be *C. erikssoni*, as the latter locality is only a few miles distant from the Shella range.

5. Note on an Australian Duck living in the Society's Gardens. By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S., Secretary to the Society.

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(Plate XXXIII.)

In a paper on the Ducks living in the Society's Gardens, which I had the honour of reading before this Society in June 1880, I mentioned that we had purchased of a dealer in the August of the preceding year a lot of 18 Australian Ducks, which, at the time of their purchase, I had believed to be Chestnut-breasted Ducks (*Anas cas-*